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1  
2 An act relating to alarm systems; amending s.  
3 489.5185, F.S.; authorizing individuals with certain  
4 fire alarm certifications to complete a reduced number  
5 of training and continuing education hours for the  
6 prevention of false alarms; requiring the training and  
7 continuing education sponsors and courses to be  
8 approved by the Electrical Contractors' Licensing  
9 Board; amending s. 553.793, F.S.; revising the  
10 definition of the term "low-voltage alarm system  
11 project" to include certain video cameras and closed-  
12 circuit television systems; creating s. 553.7932,  
13 F.S.; defining terms; authorizing a local enforcement  
14 agency to require a contractor to submit certain  
15 documentation and payment for obtaining a permit for a  
16 fire alarm system project; prohibiting a local  
17 enforcement agency from requiring plans and  
18 specifications as a condition for obtaining a permit  
19 for a fire alarm system project; requiring a local  
20 enforcement agency to issue certain permits in person  
21 or electronically; requiring a local enforcement  
22 agency to perform at least one inspection for a fire  
23 alarm system project; requiring a contractor to keep  
24 certain documentation at a worksite for a fire alarm  
25 system project and make such documentation available  
26 for inspection; providing an effective date.

27  
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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30 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 489.5185, Florida  
31 Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection  
32 (2) of that section, to read:

33 489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.—

34 (2)

35 (f) If a person holds a current National Institute of  
36 Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level II  
37 certification or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and  
38 Testing of Fire Alarm Systems, a current certification as an  
39 Electronic Security Association (ESA) Certified Fire Alarm  
40 Technician, or a current certification as an ESA Certified Fire  
41 Alarm Designer, he or she is required to complete only the 2  
42 hours of training in the prevention of false alarms required by  
43 paragraph (1)(b) from a board-approved sponsor of training and  
44 through a board-approved training course.

45 (5) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), each fire alarm  
46 system agent must receive 6 hours of continuing education on  
47 fire alarm system installation and repair and false alarm  
48 prevention every 2 years from a board-approved sponsor of  
49 training and through a board-approved training course.

50 (b) A person holding a current NICET Level II certification  
51 or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and Testing of  
52 Fire Alarm Systems, certification as an ESA Certified Fire Alarm  
53 Technician, or certification as an ESA Certified Fire Alarm  
54 Designer is required to complete only 2 hours of continuing  
55 education training in the prevention of false alarms every 2  
56 years from a board-approved sponsor of training and through a  
57 board-approved training course.

58 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section

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59 553.793, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

60 553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation  
61 permitting.—

62 (1) As used in this section, the term:

63 (b) “Low-voltage alarm system project” means a project  
64 related to the installation, maintenance, inspection,  
65 replacement, or service of a new or existing alarm system, as  
66 defined in s. 489.505, including video cameras and closed-  
67 circuit television systems used to signal or detect a burglary,  
68 fire, robbery, or medical emergency, that is hardwired and  
69 operating at low voltage, as defined in the National Electrical  
70 Code Standard 70, Current Edition, or a new or existing low-  
71 voltage electric fence. The term also includes, ~~and~~ ancillary  
72 components or equipment attached to ~~such a~~ low-voltage alarm  
73 system or low-voltage electric fence, including, but not limited  
74 to, home-automation equipment, thermostats, closed-circuit  
75 television systems, access controls, battery recharging devices,  
76 and video cameras.

77 Section 3. Section 553.7932, Florida Statutes, is created  
78 to read:

79 553.7932 Simplified permitting process for fire alarm  
80 system projects.—

81 (1) As used in this section, the term:

82 (a) “Contractor” means a person who is qualified to engage  
83 in the business of electrical or alarm system contracting  
84 pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the  
85 department under part II of chapter 489.

86 (b) “Fire alarm system project” means a fire alarm system  
87 alteration of a total of 20 or fewer initiating devices and

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88 notification devices, or the installation or replacement of a  
89 fire communicator connected to an existing fire alarm control  
90 panel in an existing commercial, residential, apartment,  
91 cooperative, or condominium building.

92 (2) (a) A local enforcement agency may require a contractor,  
93 as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system  
94 project, to submit a completed application and payment.

95 (b) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor  
96 to submit plans or specifications as a condition of obtaining a  
97 permit for a fire alarm system project.

98 (3) A local enforcement agency must issue a permit for a  
99 fire alarm system project in person or electronically.

100 (4) A local enforcement agency must require at least one  
101 inspection of a fire alarm system project to ensure compliance  
102 with applicable codes and standards. If a fire alarm system  
103 project fails an inspection, the contractor must take corrective  
104 action as necessary to pass inspection.

105 (5) A contractor must keep a copy of the plans and  
106 specifications at a fire alarm system project worksite and make  
107 such plans and specifications available to the inspector at each  
108 inspection.

109 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.